

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 11 and 12 have been amended, and claims 1 and 13 cancelled, to improve the clarity of the claimed subject matter and to bring the claims into conformity with U.S. Practice and format, and to place the application fully in condition for allowance.

The amendments are proposed pursuant to Rule 116 to place the application fully in condition for allowance. Entry of the proposed amendments, which will not require a new search or consideration of new issues is respectfully requested. It is believed that the amendments do not raise substantive issues that were not previously considered by the Examiner.

Claims 2-12 and 14-22 remain pending upon entry of the amendments to the claims above.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claim 3. Claims 6-10, 13 and 17-21 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, allowable claims 6 and 8 have been rewritten as independent claims, and allowable claim 13 has been cancelled and all of the elements of cancelled claim 13 have been incorporated into independent claim 12 in order to place same in condition for allowance. The remaining claims depend from either claims independent 6, 8 or 12. Hence, it is believed that claims 6-10 and 17-21 are now in condition for allowance.

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In addition, claims 2, 4, 5 and 11 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 3. Claims 1 and 13 have been cancelled. It is believed that claims 2-12 and 14-22 are now in condition for allowance.

Double Patenting Claim Rejections

Claims 1 and 12 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Claim 1 has been cancelled and claim 12 has been amended to incorporate all of the elements of allowable dependent claim 13, and hence the double patenting rejection with regard to claim 12, as presently amended can no longer be sustained.

In view of the cancellation of claim 1 and the amendment of claim 12, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14-16 and 22 are rejected under 35 USC 103. Claim 1 has been cancelled. As previously indicated, claim 12 incorporates all of the elements of cancelled claim 13 which was indicated as being allowable. The remaining claims, as amended, depend invariably from either independent claim 3 or 12, as presently amended, and therefore are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

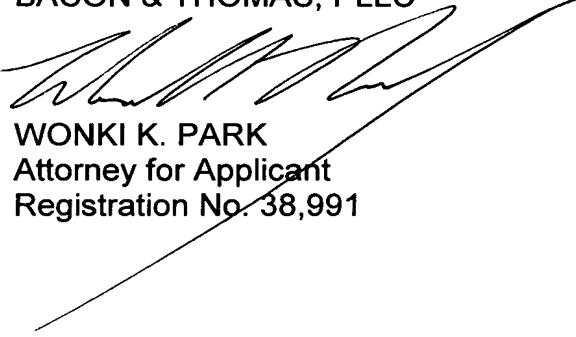
In view of the amendments to the claims, and the remarks above, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the event there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present

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application which can be resolved by a telephone call or facsimile communication to Applicant's Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile at the numbers provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC



WONKI K. PARK
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 38,991

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BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: 703-683-0500
Facsimile: 703-683-1080

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